REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of January 11, 2005. During the interview, Applicants reiterated their understanding that although the Guck reference, U.S. Patent No. 5,911,776, uses the word "schema" it in no way is directed to a set of object data format definitions that define the format of the objects created by the current and previous versions of a secondary program. (See, for example, page 4, lines 7-8 and lines 13-15; page 5, lines 1-8; and page 6, lines 28-30.) Rather, Guck teaches a method of file conversion using shadow files and dedicated conversion engines. (See Col 4, lines 41-54 and Col. 8, lines 4-29.) Nevertheless, the Examiner indicated that he preferred that the claims use alternate language that more clearly describes the secondary program and the schema. While Applicants do not believe that such amendments are necessary to circumvent the prior art or any rejection set forth in an office action, Applicants have complied with Examiner's suggestion and have provided herein claims using alternate verbiage. Applicants further note that the new claims are not believed to be narrower in any material respect than the previously pending claims.

New claims 22-26 recite a file conversion method involving a plug-in that writes data associated with a file of the main application program, wherein the plug-in includes a set of data format definitions that define the format of the data written by a plurality of versions of the plug-in. According to the method, the data format definitions for a current version of the plug-in and the previous version of the plug-in are accessed and input into a conversion engine and the data is converted to the data format for the current version.

None of the art of record discloses a conversion engine that accepts as inputs a plurality of data format definitions associated with a previous and a current data format. Guck, the reference relied upon by the Examiner, merely discloses a system in which files are converted by correlating a file extension to a shadow file that in turn references a dedicated conversion engine. Guck fails to disclose even the bare use of data format definitions for a plurality of versions of the plug-in.

In view of the Amendment and Remarks herein, the application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance, and reconsideration is requested. A petition for extension is being filed with this response along with a check in the amount of $120. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Applicants specifically reserve the right to prosecute claims of different or broader scope in a continuation or divisional application. Furthermore, Applicants note that the claim amendments made herein are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention, and not for purposes of overcoming art or for patentability or narrowing the claims. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicants' position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

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